

Application No. : 10/722,206  
Filed : November 24, 2003

IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. At page 17, line 23-31 of the specification, please amend the text as follows:

--As used herein, the term "head-end" refers generally to a networked system controlled by an operator (e.g., an MSO or ~~multimedia-specific operator~~ multiple systems operator) that distributes programming to MSO clientele using client devices. Such programming may include literally any information source/receiver including, *inter alia*, free-to-air TV channels, pay TV channels, interactive TV, and the Internet. DSTBs may literally take on any configuration, and can be retail devices meaning that consumers may or may not obtain their DSTBs from the MSO exclusively. Accordingly, it is anticipated that MSO networks may have client devices from multiple vendors, and these client devices will have widely varying hardware capabilities. Multiple regional head-ends may be in the same or different cities.—

2. At page 20, lines 14-20 of the specification, please amend the text as follows:

--Exemplary embodiments of the apparatus and methods of the present invention are now described in detail. While these exemplary embodiments are described in the context of the aforementioned hybrid fiber coax (HFC) cable system architecture having an ~~multimedia-specific operator~~ multiple system operator (MSO), digital networking capability, and plurality of client devices/CPE, the general principles and advantages of the invention may be extended to other types of networks and architectures, whether broadband, narrowband, wired or wireless, or otherwise, the following therefore being merely exemplary in nature. --